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PATENT



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

INVENTOR(S) : Richard Bruce et al.

TITLE : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
DETECTING AND LOCATING RARE  
CELLS

APPLICATION NO. : 10/616,366

FILED : July 9, 2003

CONFIRMATION NO. : 2319

EXAMINER : Unknown

ART UNIT : 2621

LAST OFFICE ACTION : None

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**LETTER**

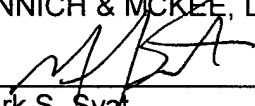
The Examiner is hereby advised of co-pending U.S. Patent Applications, Application Numbers 10/271,347 (filed 10-15-2002); 11/018,759 (filed December 21, 2004); 11/017,440 (Filed December 20, 2004); and 10/740,972 (filed December 19, 2003). The subject matter contained in these aforementioned co-pending U.S. Patent Applications, is related to the above-identified application, and thus may be relevant to the subject matter of the instant application.

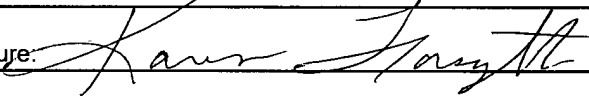
These co-pending applications are not to be construed as prior art. By bringing these co-pending applications to the attention of the Examiner, the Applicant does **NOT** waive any confidentiality concerning these co-pending applications. 35 U.S.C. 122 (1988); see Medical Laboratory Automation Inc. v. Labcon Inc., 500 F.Supp. 54, 58 n.5 (N.D. Ill. 1980), aff'd, 670 F.2d 671 (7th Cir. 1981). Furthermore, if said co-pending applications should not mature into patents, said co-pending applications should be preserved in secrecy under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 122 (1988) and 37 C.F.R. 1.14.

Respectfully submitted,

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July 6, 2006

  
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